

III. Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject patent application are requested.

Claims 1-5, 7, 9, and 11-16 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 5, 9, and 11 are independent.

Claims 1-5, 7, and 11-16 were rejected as being unpatentable over Rueger, for the reasons indicated at pages 2-5 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverse all art rejections on the grounds that the salient claimed features noted in Applicants' prior response fully distinguish the claims over Rueger. However, the Examiner kindly indicated that Claims 9 and 10 contain allowable subject matter. Therefore, while specifically traversing all art rejections, and preserving Applicants' right to file a continuation application to pursue the broad but patentable claims, Applicants have rewritten Claim 9 into independent form, and incorporated subject matter from the allowable dependent claims into the independent claims solely to secure immediate allowance thereof.

In view of the above, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3507. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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